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conselho nacional da resistencia maubere

national council of maubere resistance

conseil national de la resistance maubere

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XANANA CONFIRMED ON HUNGER STRIKE AND ILL

Reliable East Timorese resistance sources have just confirmed that Xanana Gusmao, the East Timorese resistance leader, is on a hunger strike in prison in Dili. The source who also confirms that "Xanana is ill" and "has not been visited by anyone including the ICRC" cannot for security reasons be identified.

In his defence plea which he was prevented from reading by the presiding Indonesian judge, Xanana Gusmao had stated the following:

" From today , I will start a hunger strike as a practical way to appeal to the EC, the US government and the government of Australia.

Because he was not allowed to read his statement some confusion arose as to whether he would begin the hunger strike as originally planned.

Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta, Special Representative of the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM), the leading non-partisan umbrella organization comprising all East Timorese opposition groups based inside East Timor, and headed by Xanana Gusmao, said today:

" I have no reason to doubt the source of the information. I am deeply worried about the well-being of Mr. Xanana Gusmao. The Indonesian armed forces who are holding Mr. Xanana Gusmao are responsible for his well-being ".

" If any further harm is caused to Xanana Gusmao, the Indonesian armed forces will pay a price. The US Administration, Australia, the EC and the UN, must bear responsibility for what is happening", Mr. Ramos-Horta said.

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* For further information and interviews with Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta, please contact **Margherita Tracanelli, CNRM Media & Communications** Director, Queen's Hotel, Stockholm, Ph: 46.8. 249460 Ex. 38, Olof Palme International Centre, Ph: 46.8.210739, Direct: 7917769.